MARVEL
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YOUNG AVENGERS

HEINBERG
CHEUNG
DELL

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YOUNG AVENGERS

SIDEKICKS
PART FOUR

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When a 30th-century teenager discovers he is destined to become the time-traveling despot known as KANG THE CONQUEROR, he travels back to the 21st century to enlist the aid of Kang's greatest adversaries, THE AVENGERS.

Young Kang arrives in the present only to learn that the Avengers have officially disbanded. With nowhere to turn, he uses his futuristic armor to break into Stark Industries where he downloads the programming and data files of the decommissioned android Avenger THE VISION into his CPU.

Discovering a failsafe program in the Vision software designed to pinpoint the exact locations of the next wave of Avengers, young Kang puts together a new team of super-powered teens, who, in an homage to the original Avengers, present themselves as the would-be teen sidekicks of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, and the Hulk.

Dubbed "The Young Avengers" by the press, PATRIOT, IRON LAD, ASGARDIAN, and HULKLING are soon joined by CASSIE LANG (the daughter of the recently deceased ANT-MAN) and KATE BISHOP, a resourceful, young, Avengers fan who saved the team's life during one of their early adventures.

Believing that CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, and JESSICA JONES (the former super-heroine JEWEL) intend to train them, the Young Avengers are currently inside the training facility beneath Avengers Mansion, awaiting further instructions. Upstairs, however, Captain America, Iron Man, and Jessica Jones are just about to call the kids' parents and disband the team, when they're interrupted by the sudden appearance of KANG THE CONQUEROR...

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GENTLEMEN--

--AND AN EXPECTANT YOUNG MOTHER.

LOVELY.

WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT *YOU*, KANG.

JESS, GET OUT OF HERE. *NOW.*

NOT JUST YET... *JESS.*

LET HER GO, KANG!

I'M NOT HERE TO *FIGHT*, CAPTAIN.

I'M HERE FOR *INFORMATION.*

SO, *TELL* ME...

...WHERE IS THE BOY?

NNG--

ZZZ

WE ARE SO *DEAD.*

PATRIOT, WE'LL BE *FINE.*

IRON LAD'S RIGHT. WE'RE *READY* FOR THIS.

KIND OF.

AREN'T WE?

EVEN IF WE'RE *NOT*, CAP AND IRON MAN SAID THIS IS A *TRAINING* SESSION.

THEY'RE *EXPECTING* US TO MAKE MISTAKES.

OUR ONLY *MISTAKE* WAS TRUSTING CAPTAIN AMERICA AND IRON MAN.

PATRIOT!

HERE WE GO...

GUYS, THEY LOCKED US IN HERE *THIRTY* MINUTES AGO.

THEY'RE NOT *TRAINING* US. THEY'RE *KEEPING* US HERE TILL THE *COPS* SHOW UP.

OR *WORSE...*

...OUR *PARENTS.*

THEY WOULDN'T *DO* THAT.

BILLY, COME *ON.*

IF *YOU* WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA--AND YOU JUST CAUGHT THE FOUR SUPER-POWERED FANBOYS WHO TRASHED ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL--WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO?

WE ARE SO *DEAD.*

MAYBE THIS IS JUST *PART* OF THE TRAINING SESSION.

WELL, I'M NOT WAITING AROUND TO FIND OUT.

HULKLING, BREAK IT DOWN.

HOW?

I THOUGHT YOU HAD *SUPER-STRENGTH.*

I THOUGHT *YOU* HAD SUPER-STRENGTH.

STAND BACK. MAYBE I CAN SHORT OUT THE SECURITY SYSTEM.

SSSSZZZZT!

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I *CAN'T.*

WHAT IF YOU USE YOUR *OTHER* POWERS?

WHAT OTHER POWERS?

ELI!

WHAT? YOU USED THEM TO STOP THE GROWING MEN.

YEAH, BUT--

DO YOU *WANT* YOUR PARENTS TO FIND OUT YOU'RE A SUPER HERO?

NO.

THEN *DO* SOMETHING. TELEPORT US OUT OF HERE. MAKE THE DOOR DISAPPEAR. *ANYTHING.*

YOU CAN MAKE *DOORS* DISAPPEAR?

UM...

...IT'S COMPLICATED.

NO, IT'S *NOT*. HULKLING HAS OTHER POWERS, *TOO*.

ELI!!

ELI, NOW IS *NOT* THE TIME.

THERE MAY NOT *BE* ANOTHER TIME.

THE TRUTH IS, IF WE'D JUST BEEN *OURSELVES* FROM THE BEGINNING--INSTEAD OF *PRETENDING* TO BE YOUNG AVENGERS--

HOW *ELSE* WERE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THEIR *ATTENTION?*

BESIDES, WE WEREN'T *PRETENDING.*

THE VISION'S FAILSAFE PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY *CHOSE* YOU THREE TO BECOME YOUNG AVENGERS.

THE VISION DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME, THOUGH, DID HE?

NO. BUT HE *WOULD'VE* IF HE'D KNOWN ABOUT YOUR POWERS.

SO, FOR YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL ACT AS A *YOUNG AVENGER...*

...HOW ABOUT GETTING US *OUT* OF HERE?

HOW?

IF YOU CAN *GROW*, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN *SHRINK*, TOO?

I DON'T KNOW. *MAYBE.*

IF YOU *COULD*, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CRAWL UNDER THE DOOR.

BUT THEN HOW WOULD I GET *YOU* GUYS OUT?

WAS ANYBODY WATCHING WHEN IRON MAN TYPED IN THE SECURITY CODE?

beep beep

I WAS.

KATE!

I THOUGHT YOU *LEFT.*

NOT WITHOUT *YOU*, GIANT GIRL.

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, KATE. THAT'S *TWICE* IN ONE NIGHT.

CAN WE *GO*, PLEASE? BEFORE THE AVENGERS CALL THE COPS AND/OR OUR PARENTS?

DON'T WORRY, PATRIOT. THE AVENGERS WON'T BE MAKING *ANY* CALLS FOR A WHILE.

THEY'RE TOO BUSY TALKING TO *KANG.*

"WHAT IS YOUR *ANSWER*, GENTLEMEN?"

WILL YOU HELP ME RECOVER THE *BOY*...

...OR FORCE ME TO *KILL* THE MOTHER-TO-BE?

CAN I GIVE YOU A LITTLE ADVICE, KANG?

JESS, DON'T--

NEVER THREATEN A PREGNANT WOMAN.

ESPECIALLY ONE WITH *POWERS.*

THIS IS POINTLESS.
WE'RE WASTING *TIME!*
IT'S FUN FOR *ME.*
IF I *DON'T* RETURN YOUNG KANG TO HIS PROPER PLACE IN THE TIME-STREAM--
AND *YOU* WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
THEN HE'LL NEVER BECOME *KANG THE CONQUEROR.*
YEAH, I'M NOT SEEING THE DOWNSIDE.
THE "DOWNSIDE" IS THAT REALITY, AS YOU KNOW IT, WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
IF I NEVER BECOME KANG THE CONQUEROR, THEN THE AVENGERS AND I WILL NEVER HAVE MET.
I THINK WE CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
THINK *AGAIN.* BECAUSE IF AVENGERS *HISTORY* CHANGES, SO MUST ITS *PRESENT.*
LOOK AROUND YOU. IT'S CHANGING *ALREADY.*

AS LONG AS THE BOY REMAINS *HERE*, YOUR *LIVES* AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE YOU HOLD DEAR, WILL BE ALTERED IRREVOCABLY.

AND *NOT*, IT WOULD SEEM, FOR THE *BETTER*.

ARE YOU THREE WILLING TO TAKE *RESPONSIBILITY* FOR THAT?

THEY'RE UP THERE JUST... *TALKING?*

WELL--FIRST KANG THREATENED TO KILL JESSICA'S UNBORN CHILD--

--THEN HE SHOT CAP AND IRON MAN WITH A *LASER RIFLE*--

--BUT YEAH, WHEN I LEFT, THEY WERE JUST *TALKING.*

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

WE HAVE TO GET *UP* THERE.

WHY *NOT?*

BECAUSE IF KANG *SEES* YOU--

HE *WON'T.*

HE'S LOOKING FOR "YOUNG KANG"...

...AND *I'M* IRON LAD.

THEN WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?

WHO ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?

HAWKINGBIRD?

GEE. YOU DON'T LIKE MY OUTFIT? I'M *HURT*.

IS THAT *MOCKINGBIRD'S* MASK?

THOSE ARE *DEFINITELY* MOCKINGBIRD'S BATTLE STAVES.

WHOSE SWORD IS THAT? THE BLACK KNIGHT'S?

NO! SWORDSMAN'S, RIGHT?

WHERE DID YOU *FIND* ALL THIS?

IRON MAN'S SECURITY CODE OPENED UP THE BEDROOMS, TOO, SO I GRABBED ALL THE WEAPONS I COULD FIND.

IT DOESN'T MATTER *HOW* MANY WEAPONS YOU'VE GOT, YOU'RE *NOT* COMING WITH US.

YOU'D BETTER START BEING *NICE* TO ME, PATRIOT...

...OR I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU YOUR *PRESENT*.

"CAP! YOUR *SHIELD*...!"

...YOUR UNIFORMS. THEY'RE... DIFFERENT.

JESS...

...SO IS YOURS.

OH, MY GOD...

MY JEWEL COSTUME. IT'S-- IT FITS.

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I'M...

...PREGNANT.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BABY?!?

IF YOU WANT IT BACK, YOU'LL HELP ME FIND THE BOY.

CAP...

ALL RIGHT, KANG.

WE'LL GIVE YOU THE BOY.

I'M SO SORRY, IRON LAD--

IT'S OKAY, CASS.

NO, IT'S NOT.

THE FACT THAT CAP IS WILLING TO JUST HAND YOU OVER TO THE MOST DESPICABLE VILLAIN IN AVENGERS' HISTORY--

EASY, CASS. IRON LAD KINDA IS KANG.

YEAH, BUT HE'S THE YOUNG KANG. THE GOOD KANG.

AND I INTEND TO STAY THAT WAY.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING BACK.

SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THIS WAY.

UM...MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK THE VISION SOFTWARE FOR A MAP OF THE SUB-BASEMENTS.

SO, IF YOU DON'T BECOME KANG...EVERYTHING CHANGES?

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD HAVE TO. RIGHT?

SO, THE MANSION? JESSICA'S BABY? IT'S ALL JUST... GONE?

I GUESS SO.

THEN I'M SORRY, BUT...

...MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO BACK.

KATE!

HE CAN'T!

I'M JUST SAYING--

KATE, IF YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE GOING TO BECOME... *ADOLF HITLER,* WOULDN'T YOU DO *EVERYTHING* IN YOUR POWER TO MAKE SURE IT *NEVER* HAPPENS?

OF *COURSE,* BUT--DID YOU SEE THE COLOR OF THE *SKY* UP THERE?

AND THE LOOK ON JESSICA'S FACE?

MAYBE KATE'S *RIGHT.*

IF YOU WENT BACK, WOULD YOU *HAVE* TO BECOME KANG THE CONQUEROR?

HE'S NOT *GOING* BACK.

BUT--

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A *TEAM,* REMEMBER?

AND THE ONLY WAY WE'LL GET *THROUGH* THIS IS IF WE STICK TOGETHER.

DOES THAT MEAN I'M *PART* OF THE TEAM?

DON'T PUSH IT.

SO, WHICH WAY DO WE GO? LEFT OR RIGHT?

WE FOLLOW IRON LAD.

THIS WAY.

ACCORDING TO THE VISION SOFTWARE, THIS CORRIDOR LEADS TO A TRAPDOOR THAT'S DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE...

...GATES.

I'M SORRY, IRON LAD.

I'M NOT GOING BACK WITH HIM.

YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE, SON.

BUT--

TRUST ME...

...THIS IS A FIGHT YOU WON'T WIN.

I CAME TO THE AVENGERS FOR *HELP*, CAPTAIN.

I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE *AGAIN.*

I'LL GO AFTER THE BOY.

NO, YOU'LL STAY *HERE*, WHERE CAP AND JESS CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

I'M GOING AFTER HIM.

HULKLING, GET OFF!

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT, SIR.

IN THAT CASE...

UHN--!

...I HOPE YOU CAN FLY.

AAAAAAHH!

OH, MY GOD...

HULKLING!!!

HANG ON, SON! WE'RE COMING!

IS HE...ALL RIGHT?

IS HE... *HUMAN?*

HE'S A *SHAPE-SHIFTER.*

AND NOT A VERY GOOD ONE AT THE MOMENT.

YOU OKAY? HOW DO YOU *FEEL?*

I'LL BE FINE. AT SOME POINT. WHAT ABOUT IRON LAD?

DON'T WORRY...

"...IRON LAD CAN TAKE CARE OF *HIMSELF.*"

IRON MAN, *PLEASE.* IF I GO *BACK,* BILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL *DIE.*

I'M *SORRY,* KID.

NO...

...I'M SORRY.

FWASH

IRON MAN...?

IS HE...?

HE'S UNCONSCIOUS. HE'LL BE FINE.

YOU'VE COME BACK.

THE FALL MIGHT'VE KILLED HIM.

AND *I'M NOT A MURDERER.*

NO. YOU'RE A *WARRIOR.*

JUST LIKE *ME.*

NO!!!

ZZZZZT

WHAT DID I *DO?*

YOU DID EXACTLY WHAT I *WANTED* YOU TO DO.

AFTER ALL, YOU STOLE THAT ARMOR FROM *ME*, REMEMBER?

I'M THE ONE WHO *BUILT* IT.

AND NOW THAT YOU'RE WITHIN *RANGE*...

...I'M THE ONE *CONTROLLING* IT.

PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!

PATRIOT... I C-CAN'T STOP IT...

RUN!

BOOOOM!

NOW THEN...

...SHALL WE GO?

EMPIRE
ZONE
EMPIRE
ZONE
KL!Z8